

A
Trivoltous PAPER,

In FORME of a

PETITION.

Framed and composed by a

DISAFFECTED PARTY

in this Citie of London, intended by
them to be presented to the honourable
House of COMMONS.

WITH

Certaine Considerations propounded by way
of Advertisement, and Caution unto those who
through unadvisednesse, are apt to
subscribe the same.

By a well-willer to PEACE and TRUTH.

ENLARGED

With new Additions, by way of Advertisement to all such
who unadvisedly had subscribed; and three speciall Rules
for their present Caution, and future Admonition.

LONDON,

Printed for STEPHEN BOWTELL, and are to be sold at
his Shop in Popes head Alley. 1642.

A (2.)

COPIE OF THE VOLUNTARIE Before-mentioned.

That the present state of our Affairs and Apprehensions of inevitable Ruine both of Church and Common-wealth maketh us to become humble Suiters to this Honourable Assembly, (the likeliest meanes under God for our reliefe) to consider our distressed state and to provide a speedy remedy for our present and future evils.

Humbly desiring you to weigh the Care and Judgement of our Predecessors, who by a known Law settled and preserved our Protestant Religion, our Liberties, and Properties, with the right understanding betwixt King and Subjects, which produced Plenty and Peace in our Streets. And to reflect with serious thoughts upon our present Distempers, violating Religion by Papists, and Sectaries, engaging our Nation in a Civill, bloody, and destructive Warre, in invading our Lawes, and Liberties endangering all our Lives, and utter disabling us to relieve our distressed Bretheren in Ireland.

Wee beseech you likewise to consider the effect of a continued Warre, as the Destruction of Christians, the unnaturall effusion of blood; Father against Son, Brothers by Brothers, Friends by Friends slaine; then a Famine and sicknesse the followers of a Civill Warre, making way for a generall confusion and Invasion by a forreigne Nation, while our Treasure is exhausted, our Trade lost, and the Kingdome dispeopled.

These

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(3.)

These things weighed and enlarged by your Wisedomes, we doubt not will be as strong motives in you to labour, as in us to desire a speedy Peace and happy Accomodation.

Wherefore wee humbly crave that not lending an eare to any Enimies of the present Warre, under what pretence soever; nor remembering ought that may increase Jealousies or continuall Divisions, betwene his Majesty and his Houses of Parliament; you will speedily tender his Majesty (according to his Royall Intimations) such Propositions for Accomodation as hee may wish Honour and safety to the whole Kingdome accept.

For effecting whereof wee shall be ready to assitt you with the best and utmost of our abilities; and whilst you endeavour Peace, wee shall send up our Prayers to Heaven for the blessing of Peace upon you, and all that desire it.

CERTAINE
CONSIDERATIONS
UPON THE
PREFIXED PETITION.



As God and his Church never wanted enemies, so the Devil and Antichrist never wanted friends for the promotion of prophaneitie and Idolatry in all places, it is hard to say, whether are more the enemies of truth and peace with God, or friends of error and peace with the Divell: men whom the Apostle calls, sensually, fleshly and Diabolish, lovers of pleasures more then Lovers of God, who can see no further then this life, fearing more the terrors of man, then of the Almighty, chuse rather peace with man, and wrath with God, then the wrath of man and peace with God, the truth of all which doth appeare by a Petition now in agitation; concerning which I have gathered some plaine and undeniable observations, presenting them by way of caution unto others, from these particulars, viz.

The chiefe compellers

The Malignant nature

3. The most probable Consequences, of this Petition.

Reasons and Aimes

A r

First,

First consider whether the three Articles and Counters thereof are not commonly known to be Patentes, Professions, Delinquents, Malignants, who either have not at all, or any of them in any considerable measure according to their Estates assisted the common cause of the King, come against the common enemy thereof: whose presence though it impaireth Religion, and Law, and breedeth open bleeding Wounds yet they are men Popish, Artificiall, and profane in point of Religion, some whom of (and they not of the lowest sort) have most powerfully and blasphemously in the presence of those (who being desired, denied to subscribe to a Petition for peace without truth) cursed to this saying: a person truth gives us peace, truth will follow, and let us have peace and the Devil take truth, &c. and as for the Law, consider whether many of them have not gotten their Estates by Patentes, a lawlesse occupation; and as for bleeding Wounds the their Receipts shew what they have don for its recovery, which will amount to the same nothing as the summe which they have disbursed for distracted England; they are mutinous and tumultuous, professing in the presence of many, that if this Petition died, they will die with it, and if one suffer all will suffer, with such like mutinous expressions. ——— Their are the parties.

Secondly, consider the nature of this Petition, and see if yee finde it not intolerably sauey and peremptory against the Parliament in many particulars:

First in taxing closely, but cleerely this present Parliament with inconsideration of the *King's Will* of the Law, as if either they were ignorant thereof, or impotent thereby, as not able to repeale or alter the same, being made by themselves in their predecessors having power to nule the same at their pleasure.

Secondly, consider whether they do not covertly, but unavoidably tax this present Parliaments either with indifcretion in that they presume to be wiser then their predecessors, and therefore dissent them in *weight, measure, and judgement of our predecessors, who by a known Law still had preserved our Religion and Property, &c.* or else closely implying, that this present Parliament accuseth former Parliaments of folly and unadvisedness in that they have confirmed those things that must now be reversed; either whereof is most unsufferable arrogancy and Nationall injury.

Thirdly, consider whether they do not tax this present Parliament with

with their tendering unto his Majesty such Propositions hitherto, which hee may not with his honour, and safety of the Kingdom accept, and therefore they desire that they would specially tender unto his Majesty *(according to our resolutions)* such Propositions for *Securing* *moderation*, as *Honour* with *honour*, and *safety* to the whole Kingdom accept: Whereas it is most evidently known, that many Propositions have bin tendered; and not one either to the dishonour of the King, whose greatest honour would be to governe his Kingdom by the advice of his great Councell, and faithfull Parliament, and not by the Malignant Councells of Papists, and Traytors, and our law'd Delinquents: neither hath there bin one Proposition tendered which doth not most unreasonably carry along with it the safety and future prosperity of this Kingdom.

Fourthly, consider whether the Malignity of this Petition doth not appeare in many phrases and expressions scattered up and down therein; as if it were the birth of the same wound which hath lately bin very fruitfull in many printed and scandalous Pamphlets, in casting reproaches, and most unworthy scandalis, upon both Houses of Parliament; such as *The known Base of the Land*; ascribing the *violations* of our *Religious* *Papists* and *Servitors*: under which latter word, hath ever bin implied, every man that in any thing hath differed from the Bishops Innovations, and superstitious Ceremonies, in the government of the Church: Thus the malignity of this Petition appeares in the nature of it.

Thirdly, consider the undoubtedly aimed at Consequences and Tendencies thereof; which must be such as these.

First, the raising of mutinies, divisions and discontents in the City (the unity whereof is the ruine of the common enemy) that the report hereof in the Countreies, whose eyes are upon the City, may discourage the well affected there; and so the common cause may meet with reluctancy throughout the whole Kingdom.

Secondly, that the enemy now very weake and like to fall of themselves for want of Amunition and meanes (the vitall blood of an Army) may yet strengthen and encourage themselves, and make shift by plundering, robbing, and spoyling the Countrey, to spin out a little time, knowing that our divisions here, if continued, will effectually advantage them in their bloody designs: and thus these hypocritical Petitioners as *Enemies* to *England* cry *Peace*, to the Kingdom,

while they secretly and maliciously endeavour to thrust a Sword of destruction into the bowels thereof.

Thirdly, a third aim'd at effect must be this, the stirring up of other their Brethren malignant wretches in other parts of the Kingdom, *ad exemplum* to do the like, that so they may bring the whole Kingdom divided against it selfe to inevitable ruine, whereas by the mercy of the Almighty, the present care and endeavour of our Parliament, by our Forces abroad, and associations of the severall Countreys against the common enemy, may put a very speedy and timely end unto these present troubles, with all advantages both to Church and State, and desired assistance of our poore Brethren in Ireland.

Fourthly, they now well perceive that they shall no longer be tolerated either in their detected malignity, or unworthy newrality, but *Nolentes Volentes* shall be compell'd by just assessments and censures in their estates to helpe the present state of the Kingdom, and therefore will now adventure such courses as may bring all to confusion, rather then be helpfull, endeavouring like *Judas* for a little monneys sake, under colour of a kisse of peace, to betray the Kingdom into the hands of violent and bloody men, and although like reverend Plush-cloakes and intelligent States-men they cry out against the Parliament, saying, did they not plead the Subjects property, loe where is property if they shall take what they please from us? yet they may know, that though we may plead property in respect of the Kings taxing without Law, yet wee can pleade no property from the Parliament in a time of imminent danger, into whose disposal we have committed our estates and all that we have, which we never did to the King; and surely were our Parliament as selfish as these Petitioners are, we should all have known long before this time, what the power of a Parliament had bin, by our ruine and slavery, being not in the tenth measure so provoked by such ingratitude, and unnatural provocations, as they have bin.

Fifthly, consider what a rock we may run upon, thus unthankfully to provoke the Parliament, may they not compromise differences to their own personall safety and preterment, and our irrecoverable slavery? have they not us at such advantage, that they may undoe us every houre? can we alleadge any thing against them wherein they have bin unfaithfull in that trust we committed to their charge? is it not in the prosecution of our peace, wherein they meet with such frownes

frownes and oppositions from above? have they not hazarded their estates and livelyhoods for us? did not many of them oppose with their blood in their personall adventures, the malignity of that unnatural and bloody Army that came against their mother Nation? did we not chastise them because we thought they would be faithfull? and shall we distast them for their faithfullnesse, hath not the peace and well-fare of the Kingdom bin pretious in their eyes? let malice it selfe prodge any instance to the contrary: what had become of us before this time had not their care and diligence in securing the Seas prevented those preparations made beyond the Seas by known Traytors to the Kingdom? hath God by them discovered so many plot? prevented so many apparant dangers? freed us from so many prestiges and taxations? procured so much freedom for us? and doe we thus requite them? had they not every day afresh ointment from above with the Spirit of meeknesse and love unto the Kingdom, they would make our hearts ake for such daring provocations as this Petition imports. It is not to be doubted but many have put their hands hereunto, not discerning any such malignity: either in the nature or consequences thereof; whose integrity and discretion can no way better be vindicated but by their Recantation; which (if I might be their *Monitor*) should be as publickely divulged as is their unadvisednesse, against these; the imputation implied in what hath been said is not intended; but because honest men have bene more then once taken by this sight, I shall desire to propound two or three Rules of advise for their caution and prevention against another tulle.

First, take speciall notice of the prime and chiefe Actors and Promoters in matters of this nature. It is hard to draw evill men to good actions, especially for Church and State; therefore will I suspect that wherein they are more forward then honest men.

Secondly, observe these men and their number; who seconds any thing of this kind once begun, evill men (though one age hath scarcely bin delivered of two such births) may happily both contrive & bring forth a Designe intending both the purity of Religion and Peace of the Kingdome together, but seldome seconded by many such as themselves; and never deserted by a more conscientious party; if I cannot see who the Leaders are, I will take the more notice of the followers, and accordingly will I come up in the Reare, or decline them.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, let not the goodnesse, or badnesse, quality, or number of men in any matter wherein your subscription is required, quit your owne personall examination thereof, at any thing bee propounded chiefly by insipiduous men, *Ides, perles, &c. relige*; read it, and chat thoroughly, and over againe; for though such men are most apt to call men more upright then themselves, hypocrites and dissemblers; yet you shall finde a great dexterity in this civillish Art of dissembling in such mens expeditures: plausible intimations of aiming at Religion, and the good of the Kingdome, are commonly the greene leaves under which they hatch their Cockatrice Eggs, as is their pretence in this Petition, though the chief Actors were never knowne to have the least dram of true love either to Religion or Kingdome.

In fine, let us follow hard after Peace, but harder after Truth, the best peace will follow truth, though truth will not follow every peace: let us pray for peace but of Jerusalem, not of Babylon; if our peace be enemy to truth, truth will quickly devour our peace: let us admit of a peace upon any termes of personall disadvantage, so we engage not the God of peace against us; what ever we abate of that which is called ours, yet let us not leave a hoof behinde of all that is called Gods; better it is to purchase Truth for our posterity by our blood, then to betray them by a sinfull peace. God hath bin thereto bin with us, while we have bin with him, if we forsake him, he will forsake us though the Sons of *Man* be great and tall, yet shall God drive them out before us as he hath don: If we honour God by believing, he will honour us by succeeding our endeavours; tis true God bids us follow Peace, but never without Holynesse.

FINIS

